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PTO/SB/30 (04-05)

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**REQUEST  
FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
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Address to:  
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application Number	09/658,672
Filing Date	September 8, 2000
First Named Inventor	Takekazu Kumagai
Art Unit	3624
Examiner Name	Jagdish Patel
Attorney Docket Number	B588-012 (25815.012)

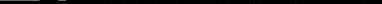
This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.



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**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Signature		Date	August 2, 2006
Name (Print / Type)	John J. Torrente	Registration No.	26,359

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Signature	John J. Torrente		
Name (Print / Type)	John J. Torrente	Date	August 2, 2006

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing the burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.